

SITUATION REPORT NO. 01
INCIDENT NO. 97-001 (Continuation of 96-01)
DATE: January 16, 1997 TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flood -Devils Lake.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from 1996 reports.
3. DAMAGE: The level of Devils Lake was 1,437.81 feet MSL on January 16. The lake level peaked at 1,437.83 feet MSL in July and then again on January 9, the highest recorded level in 130 years. The lake will continue to rise throughout winter because of inflows and precipitation over the lake. Devils Lake will be near 1,438 feet MSL by the time spring runoff occurs.

Preliminary statistics compiled by the staff at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region VIII Office indicate that \$7,911,389 has been paid to Devils Lake area flood insurance policyholders who filed claims in 1995 and 1996. Of that amount, \$5.1 million was paid for claims filed under a waiver of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. FEMA reported 385 claims were filed before and after the waiver. The claims breakdown by area is as follows: 225 from Benson County; 106 from Ramsey County; 43 from Creel Township; and 12 from Devils Lake.

Ramsey County Rural Utilities has shut down two lift stations, affecting three permanent and 12 seasonal homes.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A State Flood Coordination Center meeting was held in Devils Lake, January 9, 1997. Following is a summary of information reported during that meeting.

N.D. Division of Emergency Management

State Director Doug Friez and fellow members of his N.D. Army National Guard Unit, the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, left North Dakota on January 5 for deployment to Bosnia. As indicated at last month's meeting, in his absence Ray Staiger is Acting Director and Harold Narum Acting Deputy Director.

N.D. Game and Fish Department

N.D. Game and Fish Department and N.D. DOT officials are discussing the feasibility of coordinating the N.D. DOT's plan to raise N.D. Highway 57 with the Game and Fish Department's plan to elevate the East Bay boat access site. The two agencies are also exploring the possibility of coordinating the Game and Fish Department's plan to elevate the Six Mile Bay boat access site with the N.D. DOT's plans to raise N.D. Highway 19.

N.D. Parks and Recreation Department

The Bait Shop at Grahams Island State Park is open for ice fishing customers. Plans still call for the N.D. Parks and Recreation Department to relocate the shop in March from its present elevation of 1,438.5 feet to 1,454 feet MSL.

Benson and Ramsey County Commissions and the State Legislature are evaluating methods for financing the local share -- \$385,000 -- of a \$1.9 million project to elevate Grahams Island State Park's entrance road. If the road closes because of flooding and wave action, 60 percent of the 100-plus lake camp sites on Devils Lake would be affected.

N.D. Department of Transportation

The N.D. Department of Transportation's (N.D. DOT) Materials and Research Division conducted a survey of soils under N.D. Highway 20. Test results will be shared with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The N.D. DOT is scheduling repair work to wind-damaged erosion control devices and rip-rap used last summer along N.D. Highway 20 at the Narrows area. The agency is also planning repair work to concrete barriers used last spring on the west side of N.D. Highway 57. The projects are not yet on a bid letting schedule.

Updates on road construction are as follows:

N.D. Highway 19 at Six Mile Bay -- Beams for the new bridge have been placed as have the grade and rip-rap. The project will shut down for spring after the completion of miscellaneous work, which is expected to take two weeks. Plans call for elevating the roadway to 1,441 feet MSL and the bridge to 1,448.5 feet MSL by July 1997. N.D. Highway 57 at Fort Totten Bay -- Design work has been completed and a February bid letting is still scheduled for a grade raise of the highway at Fort Totten Bay.

N.D. Highway 57 at the former Concrete Sectional Plant and the Narrows Crossing -- Grade raises for these locations are presently under design and will be included with plans to elevate N.D. Highway 20 at Camp Grafton and Acorn Ridge.

N.D. Highway 20 -- Plans for elevating the highway at Camp Grafton and at Acorn Ridge are under development by N.D. DOT's Design Division. A bid letting is scheduled for March for these two locations and grade raises at N.D. Highway 57 at the former Concrete Sectional Plant and at the Narrows Crossing.

N.D. Highway 1 at Stump Lake -- A grade raise for this highway is presently scheduled for a June 1997 letting. However, the bid letting may be delayed since plans are dependent on efforts to forecast 1997 lake elevations. Such forecasts are still under development.

City of Devils Lake

USACE and city officials are developing plans for the third phase of the city's lake level improvement. This phase would include pumping stations at the eastern and southern portions. This phase will enable the city to obtain 100-year floodplain certification for the new levee.

N.D. State Water Commission (SWC)

The SWC will be conducting snow depth/water equivalent measurements the week of January 13-17 to monitor conditions in the Devils Lake Basin.

Applications for the Available Storage Acreage Program (ASAP) are still being accepted by the SWC, although interest at this time has been minimal. ASAP contracts and structures are in place to store approximately 9,000 acre feet of water in the Devils Lake Basin during 1997. The SWC hopes to increase this total. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also continuing efforts to store water on public lands.

N.D. National Guard

The N.D. National Guard has completed the development of an updated list of potential flood-related damage for Camp Gilbert C. Grafton.

Ramsey County Emergency Management

A transportation task force of local and state agencies has prioritized road projects for 1997 to include keeping N.D. Highway 57 open as the number one priority. The second priority is N.D. Highway 20, the third is both U.S. Highway 281 and N.D. Highway 19, and the fourth is the old military road.

Lake Region District Health Unit

The Health Unit continues to provide information to homeowners who have moved their homes out of the floodplain and need to fill basements, plug wells and pump out septic tanks.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: Tim Heisler, Ramsey County Emergency Manager, and U.S. Representative Earl Pomeroy will discuss a waiver of NFIP requirements for 1997 during a January 28 meeting with NFIP officials in Washington, D.C. In 1996, officials for the FEMA-sponsored program allowed a waiver of requirements, which included a 90-day waiting period and a stipulation that water must touch the foundation of a building before a claim could be filed. Under the waiver, insured buildings below 1,438.5 feet MSL were eligible for an insurance settlement.

The North Dakota Flood Plain Administrator and two FEMA representatives were scheduled to be in Devils Lake on January 15 and 16 to meet with local officials in an attempt to track structures that have been moved from the Devils Lake floodplain.

The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be held February 13, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room. State Flood Coordination Center meetings are currently scheduled every month.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Signed _____
Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director